SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

Case 2:11-cv-06824-JD Document 1 Filed 11/01/11 Page 1 of 11 CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating

the civil docket sheet. (SEE II	NSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVE	RSE OF THE FORM.)						
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS				
MARCELLA RAMSEY				NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.				
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant				
(c) Attorney's (Firm Na	me, Address, Telephone Nu	ımber and Email Addr	ess)	NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE				
Craig Thor Kimmel, E Kimmel & Silverman, 30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002 (215) 540-8888	P.C.			LAND I Attorneys (If Known)	INVOLVED.			
II. BASIS OF JURISI	OICTION (Place an "X" in	n One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only)	PRINCIPA	L PARTIES	Place an "X" in One F and One Box for De	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	■ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government N	Not a Party)		P		Incorporated <i>or</i> Pri of Business In This	ncipal Place PT	,
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi	p of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	2 🗇 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A		5 🗖 5
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗇 3	Foreign Nation		6 🗆 6
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Or	nly)	Γ0.	LOURING COURTY				
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☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	□ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ Product Liability □ 360 Other Personal Injury CIVIL RIGHTS □ 441 Voting □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations □ 444 Welfare □ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	PERSONAL INJURY 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERT 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITION 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Othe 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition		0 Agriculture 0 Other Food & Drug 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Liquor Laws 0 R.R. & Truck 0 Airline Regs. 0 Occupational Safety/Health 0 Other LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 0 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 0 Railway Labor Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 3 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee 5 Other Immigration Actions	820 Copyri	rawal E 157 FY RIGHTS ghts park ECURITY 395ff) Lung (923) /DIWW (405(g)) Fitle XVI D5(g)) L TAX SUITS (U.S. Plaintiff endant) Fhird Party	□ 400 State Reapp □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and E □ 430 Banks and E □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer In	danking affluenced and anizations aredit V rvice commodities/ hallenge 0 ory Actions Acts tabilization Act tall Matters cation Act Information e Determination Access ality of
№ 1 Original □ 2 R	tate Court	Appellate Court	Reor		fv)	☐ 6 Multidistri Litigation	ict 🗖 7 Judg Mag	eal to District e from istrate ment
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	ON Brief description of ca							<u>_</u>
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P.	IS A CLASS ACTION 23	D	EMAND \$		ECK YES only i	if demanded in con	nplaint: No
VIII. RELATED CAS		JUDGE		1	DOCKET	NUMBER		
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FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be u assignment to appropriate calendar.							
Address of Plaintiff: 1306 11th Avenue South, Nashvil	le, PA 37203						
Address of Defendant: 307 Practical Road Horsham PA 19044							
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:(Use Reverse Side For Addi	itional Space)						
·							
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and							
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	Yes No						
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No□						
RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:						
Case Number.	Date Fernimeed.						
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:							
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year	_ /						
	Yes No						
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit action in this court?	pending or within one year previously terminated						
	Yes No No						
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier num	/						
terminated action in this court?	Yes No No						
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case	ase filed by the same individual?						
	Yes No No						
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CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:						
1. □ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. ☐ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts						
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury						
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. ☐ Assault, Defamation						
4. □ Antitrust	4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury						
5. □ Patent	 □ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 						
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please						
	specify)						
7. □ Civil Rights	7. □ Products Liability						
8. □ Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos						
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases						
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)						
11. All other Federal Question Cases 15 U.S.C. \$ 1692							
Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIF	ICATION						
I, Check Appropriate Category Check Appropriate Category Counsel of record do hereby certify: Pursyant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and bel	list the democra recoverable in this civil action area avoid the sum of						
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	ner, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of						
☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.							
10/3/-11 Was There commo	57100						
DATE: 10 11 Atjorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#						
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there l	nas been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.						
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or with	thin one year previously terminated action in this court						
except as noted above.	one your proviously communed action in this court						
10-31-11 (Mary Theretinana)	57100						
DATE: / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /	Attorney I.D.#						

CIV. 609 (6/08)

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Marcella Romsey	CIVIL ACTION
NCO Financial Systems, Inc	NO.
In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plaplaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.	all civil cases at the time of plan set forth on the reverse the plaintiff regarding said clerk of court and serve on
SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TR	ACKS:
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2	2255. ()
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secre and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.	tary of Health ()
(c) Arbitration - Cases required to be designated for arbitration under L	Local Civil Rule 53.2.
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property d exposure to asbestos.	amage from
(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense me the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of	nanagement by
management cases.)	()
(f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the or	ther tracks. ()
Date Craig Ther Limited M. Attorney-at-law A	arcella Ramsey
215-540-8888 877-788-2864 4	mmelle credit / cue com

FAX Number

E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Telephone

1 2 3 MARCELLA RAMSEY, 4 Plaintiff 5 V. 6 NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., 7 8 Defendant 9 10 11 12 13 14 1. 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"). 16 17 2. 18 19 20 21 22 3. 23 24

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CO	MI	DT.A	INT

Case No.:

JURY TRIAL

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR

(Unlawful Debt Collection Practices)

MARCELLA RAMSEY, ("Plaintiff"), by her attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC. ("Defendant"):

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 J.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States.
- 3. Defendant has its corporate headquarters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and as such, personal jurisdiction is established.
 - 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).

PARTIES

- 5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 7. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, PA 19044.
 - 8. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 9. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 10. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties.

 See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
- 11. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.
- 12. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt

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collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692f. The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.

- 13. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.
- Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt 14. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. At all relevant times, Defendant was attempting to collect an alleged consumer debt.
- 16. Upon information and belief, the debt at issue arose out of transactions that were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

- 17. Beginning on or about May 1, 2011, and continuing through September 9, 2011, Defendant constantly and continuously contacted Plaintiff on her cellular telephone seeking and demanding payment on an alleged consumer debt.
- 18. Plaintiff received collection calls from: (888) 289-0907, which the undersigned has confirmed is a telephone number that belongs to Defendant.
- 19. Defendant contacted Plaintiff, on average, at least two (2) times a day, and at times, more than four (4) times a day.
- 20. As a result of Defendant's continuous and repeated telephone calls, Plaintiff received at least ten (10) collection calls a week and more than twenty (20) collection calls a month.
- 21. When Defendant called, if Plaintiff did not answer her cellular telephone, Defendant would make multiple telephone calls to her in an attempt to cause her to answer the phone.
- 22. Further, Defendant contacted Plaintiff at times which it was inconvenient for her to receive debt collection calls, calling her on at least one occasion in August 2011 after 9:00 p.m.
- 23. Also, on more than one occasion, when contacting Plaintiff, Defendant's employees failed to disclose the name of the company that they were calling from.
- 24. Additionally, Defendant threatened to take legal action against Plaintiff if she did not make a payment; however, to date, Defendant has not taken any legal action.
- 25. Moreover, upon information and belief, at the time Defendant threatened to take legal action against Plaintiff, neither Defendant nor the creditor intended to take legal action against Plaintiff.

- 26. Further, Defendant threatened to garnish Plaintiff's wages if she did not make on the alleged debt; however, to date, Defendant has not garnished her wages.
- 27. Moreover, upon information and belief, at the time Defendant threatened to garnish Plaintiff's wages, neither Defendant nor the creditor intended to take such action.
- 28. Finally, within five (5) days of its initial communication with Plaintiff, Defendant failed to send Plaintiff written notification of her rights to dispute the debt and/or request verification of the debt.
- 29. To this date, Plaintiff has not received any written correspondence from Defendant.
- 30. Upon information and belief, when making the continuous and repeated telephone calls to Plaintiff, Defendant intended to harass Plaintiff into paying the alleged debt.

CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

- 31. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay & Durand, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." Russell v. Equifax A.R.S., 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).
- 32. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be

construed liberally in favor of the consumer." <u>Johnson v. Riddle</u>, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).

33. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3rd Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public - that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 34. In its actions to collect a debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:
 - a. Defendant violated the FDCPA generally;
 - b. Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA when it harassed, oppressed or abused Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt;
 - c. Defendant violated §1692d(5) of the FDCPA when it caused Plaintiff's telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse or harass;

- d. Defendant violated §1692d(6) of the FDCPA when it placed phone calls to Plaintiff without meaningful disclosure of the caller's identity;
- e. Defendant violated §1692e of the FDCPA when it used false, deceptive, and misleading representations in connection with the collection of a debt;
- f. Defendant violated §1692e(5) of the FDCPA when it threatened to take actions that it did not intend to take or could not be legally taken;
- g. Defendant violated §1692e(10) of the FDCPA when it used false and deceptive means in attempting to collect a debt;
- h. Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA when it used unfair and unconscionable means in connection with the collection of a debt; and
- Defendant violated §1692g(a) of the FDCPA when it failed to send Plaintiff
 the required disclosures pertaining to her rights within five days of its initial
 contact with Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, MARCELLA RAMSEY, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutor y damages of \$1,000.00 for the violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

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this case.

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, MARCELLA RAMSEY, demands a jury trial in

10-31-11

RESPICTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Craig Thor Kimmel Attorney ID #57100

Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.

30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002 Phone: (215) 540-8888

Fax: (877) 788-2864

Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com